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PROGRAM TO "YOUTH WANTS TO KNOW."**

Y O U T H W A N T S

T O K N O W

Founded and Produced by Theodore Granik

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1958

YOUTH WANTS TO KNOW PRESENTS

A. I. MIKOYAN

FIRST DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

OF COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, USSR

STEPHEN MC CORMICK

and

IRVING R. LEVINE

Moderators

**THE ANNOUNCER: From Moscow, YOUTH WANTS TO KNOW presents
the first cultural exchange of television programs between
the United States and the Soviet Union.**

**America's award-winning program, founded and produced
by Theodore Granik, took American students behind the
Kremlin wall to meet and interview the leaders of the USSR
for the radio and television audience of the United States.**

And here to introduce our special series is your Moderator, Steve McCormick.

MR. MC CORMICK: The NBC and YOUTH WANTS TO KNOW are pleased to present the first in a series of special programs from Moscow, where, for the first time in history, American students met and talked freely with Soviet leaders in the fields of science, education, health, culture and trade relations. And as these young people walked through the Kremlin courtyard to meet Premier Mikoyan and to appear on the first program, we want to point out to you that this is a cultural exchange where Soviet citizens will see American guests on their television sets and Americans will meet the top leaders of the Soviet Union.

We wonder if this exchange of young people might not be the most potent force through which Western ideas can permeate the Soviet Iron Curtain.

Direct from their unusual experience in Moscow we are pleased to have several of the American students in the studio today, so before introducing our guest, Anastas Mikoyan, the First Deputy Premier of the USSR, let's welcome home our travellers.

Welcome home, students.

Ricky, tell me, did you feel that the Russian leaders in this series gave honest and accurate answers to your questions?

MR. MEDALIE: Well, I don't think that we got an accurate portrayal of Soviet reality but we did get a portrayal of the Soviet attitudes to this reality and I think that the American public will get quite an insight into the Soviet world view by this series of films that was made in Moscow.

MR. MC CORMICK: Aside from the leaders, Harry, what is the average Soviet citizen concerned with from your point of view?

MR. HARLOW: Well, Steve, the Russian industry was always asking me questions about peace and whether or not the United States was really sincerely interested in international peace and if we were, why we are causing so much hostility in the Middle East. Of course whatever I said was usually judged as incorrect by the Soviet perspective because their concept of peace includes the spreaders of the Communist ideology throughout the entire world.

MISS TOWER: Well, Harry, didn't you feel that this emphasis on peace came from the Kremlin, perhaps, and that the posters and the pins that we saw all over Russia advocating international peace maybe were almost distributed by the State?

MR. HARLOW: I guess I agree with that, Mary, because I believe the propaganda is so well organized and so well controlled by the State that actually the average Russian

has his thinking conditioned to some extent by this propaganda that that probably isn't possible in our country today.

MR. MC CORMICK: Did any of you get to visit a Soviet home?

MISS BALLING: Yes.

MR. MC CORMICK: You did, Joan? Tell me about it?

MISS BALLING: I was very fortunate in being able to visit a Russian flat, the home of one of the Russian students that we met. Probably by American standards it would be judged, well, below middle class, but on Russian standards it was really a very nice apartment.

MR. MC CORMICK: What did you do there?

MISS BALLING: Well, we went there one afternoon and there was a piano in the apartment and we spent the afternoon singing, playing the piano. We even taught some of the boys how to jitterbug.

MR. MC CORMICK: Well, now, Rick, you appear next on the program with the Minister of Culture, Mikhailov. What are your impressions now of the Soviet culture?

MR. MEDALIE: Well, as Minister Mikhailov said himself someone has to make the decisions in the society and the thing that had a tremendous impact on us was the fact that art and literature, architecture, all were -- there was the evidence of the heavy hand of the State in everything on this order.

One of the most wonderful things was when we crossed the border and went into Warsaw and there in Warsaw since 1956 there has been a tremendous change in the whole culture level. There is no longer any of these propaganda posters. The posters are in effect abstract art which advertise movies. They have a wonderful flourishing of modern arts, the literature, there is a great intellectual ferment and this was the impact in the differences between these two countries.

MR. MC CORMICK: Of course, Rick, I am sure you will keep in mind, as will our viewers and listeners, that in this series filmed in the Soviet Union the guest occasionally did not give a direct answer, but presented only the Soviet point of view. It was not always possible to follow up some of these points in the questioning, but we believe that all the answers are interesting examples of current Soviet attitudes and we think that Americans can evaluate the statements and supply their own analysis of the validity of the responses.

Now, Mary, I know you went to Leningrad. Did you get to church there? Were there many churches there?

MISS TOWER: There are many churches there, Steve, beautiful churches that have been built a long time ago but as the tourist guide commented, there were very few that were working now. That is, they were not working

religiously but were working as State museums.

There are about four, I think she said, that are working religiously, for a population of about three million.

MR. MC CORMICK: In getting information out to people, tell me, Harry, you said something about books. Were there many books there?

MR. HARLOW: That is a very ticklish question, Steve. There are many books in Russia. They are very cheap and the books stores are very crowded. I would say there are more people buying books in Russia than there are in our country but these books, as you know, are published by the government and are sanctioned by the government, so it is hard to say really what degree of information these people obtain by reading this type literature and how informative it really is.

MR. MC CORMICK: Joan, you had quite a few uniforms in view, I am told. Am I right?

MISS BALLING: Yes. In Leningrad we were all very much amazed by the tremendous number of men in military uniforms.

MR. MC CORMICK: Is that so?

Well, this has been a very interesting discussion and I want to remind you that our guest today on YOUTH WANTS TO KNOW is Anastas Mikoyan, the First Deputy Premier of the USSR. And Sunday, September 21, American students will

interview Nikolai Mikhailov, Minister of Culture, and on the following week our guest will be the Soviet Minister of Higher Education, Vyatcheslav Elutin. On October 5 our guest will be A. A. Blagonravov, Soviet scientist who played a key role, you will remember, in the launching of Sputnik. The series will end on Sunday, October 12, when YOUTH WANTS TO KNOW will interview Victor Zhdanov, Deputy Minister of Health for the USSR.

And now, to the Kremlin in Moscow to meet our guest today.

MR. BARTOLINI: This is the Kremlin in Moscow. The high walls, onion-shaped dome and spires, topped with gleaming red stars, overlook this center of the Soviet world. One of the capitals where decisions affecting the future of mankind are developed and announced.

YOUTH WANTS TO KNOW, produced by Theodore Granik, is on this historic site meeting with an outstanding Soviet

leader.

International trade is of major importance to the Soviet Union today. To discuss this vital topic our guest will be presented by Irving R. Levine, NBC's Moscow bureau chief.

MR. LEVINE: The First Deputy Premier of the Soviet Union is Anastas Mikoyan. He is one of the most prominent Soviet statesmen of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the Soviet State. A considerable portion of his career has been in the field of international trade. He became Commisar of Trade in 1926.

At the present time Anastas Mikoyan is a member of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the First Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR.

Premier Mikoyan, it is a great pleasure to be in your Kremlin office today, and a privilege. With us here are our American students who are touring your country with Professor George Kneller.

MR. MIKOYAN: I am very glad to meet American students and to talk to them as long as time will permit.

QUESTION: Mr. Mikoyan, do you feel that President Eisenhower's reply to Premier Khrushchev's trade message will result in greater trade relationships between Soviet Russia and the United States?

MR. MIKOYAN: The President's message shows the United

States government shares our opinion that the development of trade between our two countries would be advantageous to both the United States and the Soviet Union. This message also expresses the readiness of the United States government to promote trade. This is a new and pleasant note which we have been hearing lately from Washington, and this is definitely a step forward which will promote trade.

Unfortunately, the message by-passes those reefs which are an obstacle to the development of trade between us.

In the past when trade was on the up-grade we had a trade agreement in force signed back in 1937 in President Roosevelt's time. Unfortunately the American government denounced this agreement in 1951 and it is no longer valid. More than that, later the United States passed several laws and decrees directed against trade with the Soviet Union.

High tariffs on the import of Soviet Goods to the United States were introduced which made the sale of goods almost impossible.

Naturally if these obstacles are not removed, fine words about trade will remain words only. And this may be a criticism of the American government, but this is friendly criticism which you can not do without in conversation.

At present we are waiting for an answer from the State

Department. If the concrete proposals and actions of the State Department correspond to the good words contained in the President's message, then trade will probably develop well.

QUESTION: Is trade essential to normal relations between our two countries or do you feel we can relax world tensions without such increase in trade?

MR. MIKOYAN: I think that trade between us is, of course, necessary and advantageous economically to both countries, because we have goods which we could profitably sell to you and there are products which we could buy from you on a mutually advantageous basis. We are after all the two biggest countries in the world.

Of course the development of trade would help ease tensions. The cold war must be done away with through both free trade and by other means. An end must be put to it once and for all. Then trade would develop faster. That trade is a necessity is shown by history. In the 1930's we placed orders for very large sums with American industry and sold our products too. Why not renew this today on an even bigger scale at a time when we have become richer and you have developed too?

QUESTION: Mr. Premier, what are the principal consumer products which the Soviet government wishes to import from the United States?

MR. MIKOYAN: We would first of all like to buy equipment and whole factories to produce consumer goods at home. Especially equipment producing synthetic raw materials for consumer goods. That is fiber, plastics, artificial leather, artificial fur and so forth. We could also buy some of these ready made materials, if American firms would agree to buy Soviet products.

QUESTION: Sir, do you feel that American consumer products which you buy from us will be readily accepted on the Soviet market?

MR. MIKOYAN: It is our trading organizations that would be making the purchases and they know what is in great demand on our market and would buy the right kind of products which no doubt would sell well.

You have probably seen what a brisk trade our stores do. The incomes of the population are growing. We have no unemployment. There is full employment in our country. But despite the fact that we are constantly increasing the output of consumer goods, the demand is such that we can develop production still further.

QUESTION: Mr. Premier, what assurance will the United States have that the Soviet economy will use American products for peaceful purposes only?

MR. MIKOYAN: What assurances do you want? First of all, the things we want to buy are of no military significance.

Secondly, as for the production of arms, we have enough, and do not need to buy any.

If you like, we could sell you some. Naturally we will not sell intercontinental rockets as yet. That goes without saying.

QUESTION: Mr. Premier, what are the principal products that you have available for export to the United States and in what quantity?

MR. MIKOYAN: In his message, Premier Khrushchev gave a detailed list of goods. Here are some of them. Manganese ore, chromium ore, asbestos, wood products, and so forth.

It is hard to list everything now, but we could sell you a lot.

QUESTION: Are these products available immediately?

MR. MIKOYAN: Yes, they are available and if need be, we could increase production. It should be mentioned here that our country today holds second place in the world in industrial production after the United States, and wants to overtake and surpass it. Things are being done on such a large scale that there are plenty of products for the United States. But the lack of business contacts between our peoples makes it difficult for us to determine what and in what quantities the United States needs.

Don't forget that foreign trade in our country has increased six times over as compared to pre-war times and

it is equal to 33 billion rubles which is over \$8 billion.

If before we held 16th place in world trade, today we hold sixth place. Our foreign trade is growing and the place we hold among the countries of the world will be moving up to the top.

I would like to present you with this statistical report for 1956. This is a detailed statistical report. The report for 1957 will be published any day now. You will find many products there which America needs.

In the States they know better than we do what they need.

QUESTION: When will the Soviet Union be prepared to negotiate a formal trade agreement with the United States and where could this take place?

MR. MIKOYAN: We are ready today. As for a time and place, there will be no difficulties on our part, because this is a simple matter. We are waiting for the State Department's reply. It depends on the United States government and the State Department how soon such negotiations will start. As for us, we are ready.

QUESTION: Sir, is your government prepared to purchase our products on a normal commercial basis as President Eisenhower suggested?

MR. MIKOYAN: Of course we are prepared to buy on a commercial basis. That is natural. But speaking frankly

since contacts were few and trade was practically non-existent, to quickly increase the trade turnover between us at the initial stage and to place more orders in the United States it would be good if we were given credits, because it would be difficult in a short time to find buyers for Soviet goods and also to find foreign currency for payments.

We have had much experience with American firms in the past and there was nothing we could complain about. And American and Soviet businessmen easily found a common tongue.

QUESTION: Mr. Premier, will you purchase consumer goods from American companies, even though you are selling little to them at this time?

MR. MIKOYAN: If we do not sell, or sell little, or if we do not get credits, it would be hard to buy in great quantity. In order to do so, one must have gold, and we do not want to spend our gold reserves on consumer goods. Then too we do not keep reserves of dollars.

QUESTION: What percentage of your purchases would be on a cash basis?

MR. MIKOYAN: It is hard for me to tell you exactly at present. To name the exact percentage I need some estimates which I don't have at hand.

QUESTION: Sir, the exchange of tourists between nations not only offers cultural advantages, but it also

offers a great deal of mutual understanding. Do you think that this exchange can become important as a factor of trade?

MR. MIKOYAN: I agree with your evaluation of the importance of tourism. Cultural exchange, contacts and friendship between nations are all very important.

Tourism can do a lot of good in so far as trade is concerned, too. Among tourists there are often people who produce products of interest to us or people who would be interested in our products. Then the dollars which the American tourists leave behind in the Soviet Union would return to the United States in the form of payment for Soviet orders.

QUESTION: Mr. Premier, is your government doing anything to stimulate greater travel by Soviet citizens to the USA?

MR. MIKOYAN: Of course it is. We want Soviet tourists to go to other countries, too. In the past few years over one million Soviet people went to different countries, and only a few to the United States, in view of the atmosphere which exists in the States towards Soviet people. That is why people are reluctant to go there. When the atmosphere becomes better, they will probably go more.

QUESTION: What is your government doing to encourage American citizens to visit the USSR?

MR. MIKOYAN: To begin with, we are building more hotels.

Maybe less than is required, and not quite with all the conveniences tourists may need. They may not be as tall as those in the States, but we are expanding the program.

Speaking of advertising, I must admit our advertising is worse than yours. If our travel agencies were to work better and American travel agencies would help, we could give this business more publicity and get more tourists from the States.

QUESTION: Mr. Premier, in order to encourage more tourists to the USSR, do you plan to remove the restrictions placed on travel to the USSR, and if so, when?

MR. MIKOYAN: We have no restrictions for tourists. There are, of course, some places where tourists have no need to go, but these places are of no tourist interest whatsoever.

We have many interesting routes throughout the country and you can see much if you take them. I am sure that one trip will never be enough. You have to go several times to see at least half of what there is. It is not easy to take in such a large and interesting country as ours.

QUESTION: Mr. Premier, what would be the effect on the rest of the world if the United States and the Soviet Union opened trade negotiations?

MR. MIKOYAN: I think the answer lies in the question. It would have both a great and positive effect.

QUESTION: Mr. Premier, let's assume that you do increase

your trade with the United States. What will be the effect on the smaller countries that you now trade with?

MR. MIKOYAN: The effect would only be positive. I see nothing negative in this.

QUESTION: Sir, if you allow our products to be sold within the Soviet Union, will you leave the United States labels on these products?

MR. MIKOYAN: A United States label is not a bad thing. If the product is made in the United States, it will naturally have an American label, just as Soviet products will have a Soviet label. This is an elementary rule of decent trade.

QUESTION: What is your long-range advantage of buying our products when you could actually produce them yourselves?

MR. MIKOYAN: That is an interesting question. We can produce and we managed without purchases, but the demand for some products is sometimes greater than our current production. We need time to increase production. In this time we could buy various products.

QUESTION: Mr. Premier, if Russian industry does not now produce as many consumer goods -- and let's go back to this last question of the long-range plan -- what is Russian industry now interested in, in long-range terms? What is their production future?

MR. MIKOYAN: We have great plans for increased output

of consumer goods. We hope that in the nearest seven years -- for for some products maybe sooner -- we will fully satisfy the demand for consumer goods in our country.

The seven-year plan I mentioned has already been drawn up and will probably be soon adopted. Some of the data was published in our press. It was given by Premier Khrushchev in his speech at the Presidium of the Central Committee of our Party.

QUESTION: Mr. Premier, how can we be sure a trade agreement will continue when you reach your maximum production for consumer goods?

MR. MIKOYAN: We are sure of this. The more we produce, the greater the trade, because at sometime you may produce some items that are better than ours, or we may have some better products. We could exchange them. If you make machines of a newer design than we do, we will buy them. And if it is the other way around, you buy them from us. Such was the case with the turbo-drill which an American firm bought in the Soviet Union.

QUESTION: Mr. Premier, which country do you think will benefit the most if the door is opened to trade negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union?

MR. MIKOYAN: I think both countries will benefit.

QUESTION: Why is there now a stress on exporting goods when the goals of your economy are to expand the

economy within and also to improve the standards of living of the citizenship?

MR. MIKOYAN: To greatly increase the production of goods we have to build new factories and plants. This requires time, during which it is necessary to buy. When these plants are built there will be a demand for new products or the same products in greater quantities. There is no limit to human demand.

QUESTION: With your price level, do you feel that your products can meet the competitive market in the United States?

MR. MIKOYAN: Yes, they could meet the competitive market. We sell according to normal world prices and the prices on our products are such that we can compete on the world market.

QUESTION: Sir, why do you feel that a formal agreement is necessary?

MR. MIKOYAN: Because there are many formal obstacles in the way of trade on the part of the United States government bodies. Besides a formal trade agreement obliges the government bodies to help develop trade.

QUESTION: Are American businessmen now allowed to enter the Soviet Union to negotiate trade agreements?

MR. MIKOYAN: American businessmen and not only businessmen can come to the Soviet Union unhampered.

QUESTION: Mr. Premier, the official exchange rate on the ruble is now four to one dollar. The tourist exchange rate is ten to one dollar. If the trade agreement is reached, how will this difference be redeemed?

MR. MIKOYAN: What do you mean by "redeemed"?

QUESTION: What kind of inbetween will be reached? Will we go by the official exchange rate or will we go by the tourist exchange rate?

MR. MIKOYAN: In trade with the United States we use prices in dollars so this will in no way influence these. For payments not connected with trade we have introduced a favorable tourist rate of exchange to promote tourist travel to our country.

QUESTION: Mr. Premier, would United States firms be able to branch out and to establish offices and factories here to distribute their goods if you were to buy their products?

MR. MIKOYAN: We do not establish foreign offices and factories in our country and we do not establish our offices and factories in other countries. We work on the basis of contracts between our firms and those of foreign countries.

QUESTION: Mr. Premier, since the consumption of books and literature is so great in the USSR, would it be possible for individual publishing companies in the United States

to enter trade agreements? To enter into a trade agreement with regard to the books, with the USSR?

MR. MIKOYAN: Yes, it would, but I must say that books are written and published, books which do not tell the truth, and are abusive to our people. Such books we naturally do not want to buy. Others we will buy with pleasure. Your program is called YOUTH WANTS TO KNOW, I think. You are young students and I hope you won't get the airs or become top heavy. There was a time when I was young, too, just as you are today.

Secondly I am not young any more, but I hate to call myself old because it is both unpleasant and disadvantageous, though probably I really am an old man. Nevertheless, being an old man I am interested in and want to know everything just like you do. If in any way I did a bad job in helping you to learn a few things about our trade, I hope to make up for it when we meet again.

MR. LEVINE: Premier Mikoyan, we thank you very much for being our guest today and for answering the questions that YOUTH WANTS TO KNOW.

This is one in a series of special programs brought to you from Moscow exclusively by NBC and YOUTH WANTS TO KNOW.

Join us again next week when another prominent Soviet personality will be interviewed by American students.

And now this is Irving R. Levine in Moscow, bidding you good bye on behalf of Theodore Granik.

THE ANNOUNCER: For reprints of today's discussion send ten cents to Ransdell, Inc., Printers and Publishers, Washington 18, D. C.

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